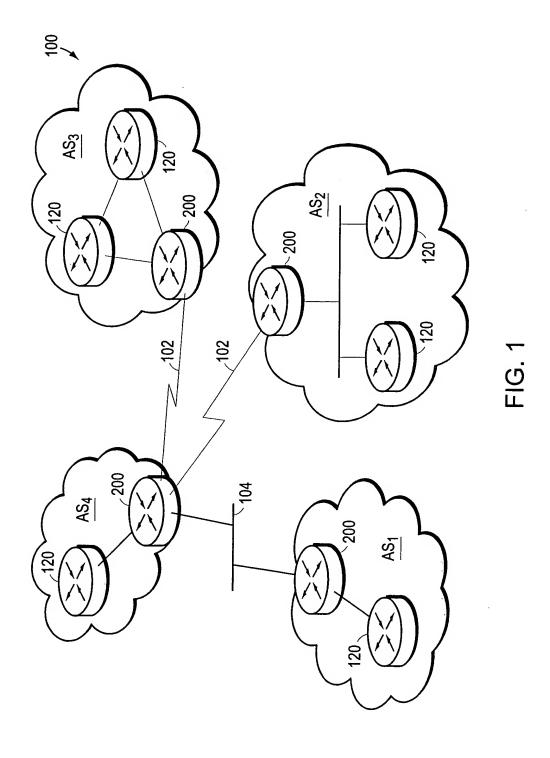


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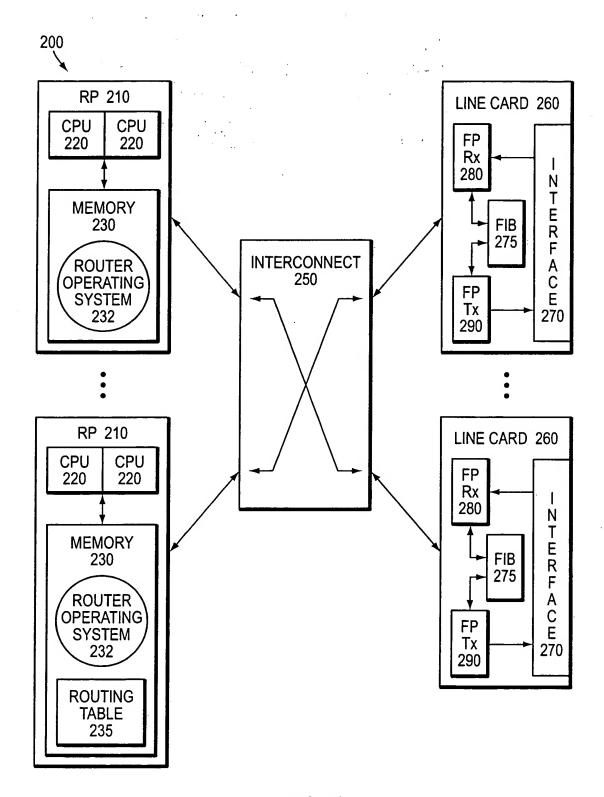


FIG. 2

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APPLICATION 302

TRANSPORT 304

INTERNETWORK 306

NETWORK INTERFACE 308

~ 300

FIG. 3

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400

HEADER 410
UNFEASIBLE ROUTES LENGTH 402
WITHDRAWN ROUTES 404
TOTAL PATH ATTRIBUTE LENGTH 406
PATH ATTRIBUTES 500
NETWORK LAYER REACHABILITY INFO 408

FIG. 4

FLAGS 502

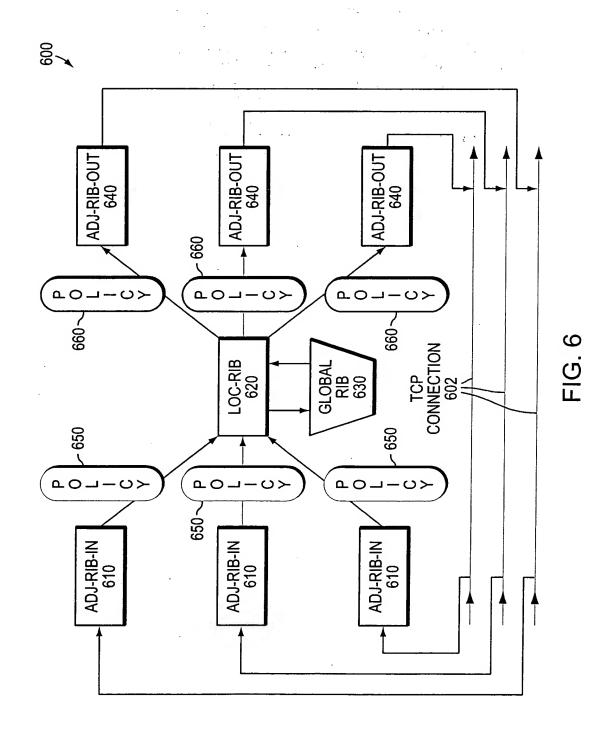
ATTRIBUTE TYPE 504

ATTRIBUTE LENGTH 506

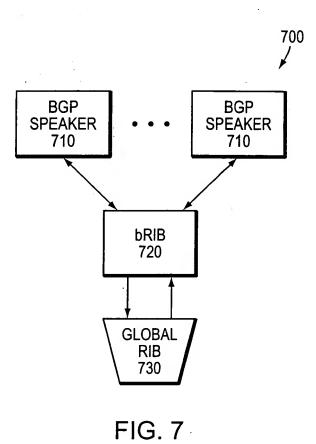
ATTRIBUTE VALUE 508

FIG. 5

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7/7 800 **START** 802-RECEIVE UPDATE MESSAGES FROM PEERS AT EACH BGP SPEAKER APPLY INBOUND POLICY TO ROUTES 804-ANNOUNCED IN RECEIVED UPDATE MESSAGES AT BGP SPEAKER PERFORM FIRST STAGE OF ROUTE SELECTION AT BGP SPEAKER 806-TO SELECT PARTIAL BEST PATHS 808 DOWNLOAD PARTIAL BEST PATHS FROM EACH BGP SPEAKER TO bRIB PERFORM SECOND STAGE OF ROUTE SELECTION AT bRIB 810-TO SELECT BEST PATHS 812-DOWNLOAD BEST PATHS TO GLOBAL RIB PERFORM THIRD STAGE OF ROUTE SELECTION AT GLOBAL RIB 814~ TO SELECT OPTIMAL BEST PATHS 816-UPLOAD BEST PATHS FROM bRIB TO EACH BGP SPEAKER 818-APPLY OUTBOUND POLICY ON BEST PATHS AT BGP SPEAKER 822 820 **BLOCK** TRANSMISSION OF BEST WITHDRAW ROUTE(S) PREVIOUSLY ROUTE(S) TRANSMITTED ŧΝ TRANSMIT BEST ROUTES IN UPDATE MESSAGES TO PEERS 824~ FROM EACH BGP SPEAKER 826 **END** FIG. 8